

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, CI

SUBJ: U.S. PRESS COVERAGE OF BOMB INCIDENT

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEST OF AUGUST 16 WASHINGTON POST STORY FROM SANTIAGO BY MARLISE SIMONS HEADLINED "CHILE DENIES ANY PART IN BOMB PLANT".

2. QUOTE. SOCIALIST-LED GOVERNMENT HAS ASSURED U.S. AUTHORITIES THAT THE BOMBS FOUND OUTSIDE THE HOMES OF THREE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HERE IN NO WAY REFLECT ITS FEELINGS OR POLICIES.

3. ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, U.S. AMBASSADOR NATHANIEL DAVIS WENT TO LA MONEDA PALACE THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE BOMBS.

4."A HIGH OFFICIAL APOLOGIZED TO THE AMBASSADOR, AND EXPLAINED THAT THE BOMB PLANTS OR THE RECENT ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN IN THE PRESS WERE IN NO WAY INSTIGATED BY THE GOVERNMENT," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

5. THE "CLEARLY HOME-MADE" BOMBS WERE FOUND LATE LAST NIGHT, A U.S. OFFICIAL EXPLAINED, BUT ALL OF THEM WERE DEFUSED BY POLICE EXPERTS BEFORE DOING ANY DAMAGE.

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6. THE BOMB PLANTS HAVE CAUSED A STIR IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY HERE, WHICH HAS DWINDLED FROM ABOUT 4,000 TO SOME 2,000 PERSONS SINCE PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE TOOK OVER IN 1970.

7. ONLY ABOUT HALF OF THE ORIGINAL 120-ODD AMERICAN FIRMS ARE STILL FUNCTIONING NORMALLY AND HUNDREDS OF BUSINESSMEN HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY. THE AMERICANS WHO REMAIN ARE MAINLY STUDENTS, TEACHERS, EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND A SPRINKLING OF BUSINESSMEN. THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES - CATHOLICS, PROTESTANTS AND MORMONS -- WHO ON THE WHOLE ARE NOT HOSTILE TO SALVADOR ALLENDE'S MARXIST REFORMS.

8. THE BOMB INCIDENTS CAME AS NO REAL SURPRISE. ON THE ONE HAND THERE IS A CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE CREATED BY A SEEMINGLY INTERMINABLE SERIES OF TERRORIST ATTACKS. ON THE OTHER, THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN A SPATE OF VERBAL ATTACKS AGAINST AMERICAN DIPLOMATS. THIS WEEK, WITHOUT ANY APPARENT REASON, NEWSPAPERS, RADIO STATIONS AND A TELEVISION STATION, ALL OWNED BY LEFTISTS, BEGAN TO ACCUSE U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS OF BEING AGENTS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. SOME COLUMNISTS EVEN CHARGED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS FINANCING THE CURRENT TRUCK-OWNERS STRIKE, WHICH HAS VIRTUALLY PARALYZED THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

9. BUT THIS WEEK'S WAVE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM PROVIDES AN INTERESTING INSIGHT INTO THE BYZANTINE WORKINGS OF CHILEAN POLITICS, RATHER THAN A GENUINE REVELATION OF REAL FEELING ABOUT THE UNITED STATES.

10. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, A CUBAN DELEGATION ARRIVED HERE ON WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A "VISIT OF POLITICAL STRATEGY DISCUSSIONS."

11. THE PRESENCE OF THE CUBANS UNLEASHED A TORRENT OF ANTI-CUBAN ARTICLES IN THE MEDIA OWNED BY RIGHTISTS. THOUGH THE VISITING OFFICIALS HAVE LONG SINCE LEFT, THE RIGHTIST MEDIA ARE STILL NURTURING THE CAMPAIGN. UNQUOTE.
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12. MARVINE HOWE'S AUGUST 17 NEW YORK TIMES STORY FROM SANTIAGO, HEADLINED "U.S. AIDES IN CHILE PUT ON ALERT AS THE CRISIS DEEPENS", LEADS AS FOLLOWS, WITHOUT FURTHER DETAILS:

13. QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY PUT ALL AMERICAN

PERSONNEL ON THE ALERT TODAY AFTER UNSUCCESSFUL BOMBING
ATTEMPTS AT THE HOMES OF THREE EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND A
RISING ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN IN THE LEFT-WING PRESS.
END QUOTE. ROGERS

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